

# Southeast News

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Rev. Don A. Bundy

## Minister's Convocation Scheduled April 30-May 2

The annual Convocation for Ministers and Spouses, sponsored by the Southeast Conference, is scheduled to be held Monday - Wednesday, April 30 - May 2 at Camp Sumatanga in Gallant, AL.

A time during which conference ministers can enjoy relaxation, fellowship and continuing education, this year's Ministers' Convocation will host four different speakers.

Addressing the ways for a minister's family to achieve some financial security will be Rev. Don Bundy, Secretary for The Pension Boards of the UCC, New York, NY. Rev. Edwin Mehlhaff, who is a part-time conference staff person working in the area of stewardship, will present "A Theology of Stewardship." The Office for Church Life and Leadership will be represented by two persons: Rev. Joyce Myers, Atlanta, GA and Rev. Ralph Quellhorst, New York, NY. Rev. Myers began her tenure with OCLL in 1978. Rev. Quellhorst, since 1975, has served OCLL in the area of professional development of clergy and laity. Both Rev. Myers and Rev. Quellhorst will make presentations concerning professional growth in ministry.

Cost for the Convocation will be \$41.00

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## Independence House Dedicated

Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC dedicated its newly renovated Independence House on March 25, 1979 with special services held at the church. Independence House was re-designed for persons especially confined to wheelchairs.

The house is a dream come true, and is the result of two years of planning and effort by the congregation.

A committee composed of 12 members of Pilgrim Church spearheaded the actual purchase and development of the project. A gift of \$5,000 from the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries made the renovation possible.

The renovation includes a completely new kitchen accessible to persons in wheel chairs, a remodeled bath and a ramp entrance to the building. The church raised the necessary funds for the down payment on the property and has assumed the remaining mortgage.

The intent of the church is to provide low rent housing for either two students confined to wheel chairs or to a couple in the same circumstances. Applications for residence are now being considered by the church.

## Johnson Appointed To Evangelism Post

The Rev. R. Alan Johnson, Brooklyn, NY, has been appointed secretary in charge of evangelism of the United Church of Christ's Board for Homeland Ministries, Dr. Howard E. Spragg, executive vice president of the organization, announced recently. Mr. Johnson will begin his duties on May 1.

"As secretary for evangelism he will be responsible for developing United Church identity, church growth, ways of reaching the unchurched and shaping the biblical message into contemporary terms," Dr. Spragg said.

Mr. Johnson has been minister of the Grace United Methodist Church, Brooklyn, NY, since 1977. From 1972-77 he was pastor of the First Church of Christ Congregational, UCC, Sharon, CT. From 1971-75 he was a member of the Task Force on Women in Church and Society of the UCC and chaired its sub-committee on family life issues.



Rev. George W. Otto

## Stewardship Council Elects Executive Secretary

George W. Otto, Denver, CO, Minister of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the 1.8 million member United Church of Christ, was elected February 26 as executive secretary of the United Church's Stewardship Council.

The Stewardship Council is the national agency of the Church that is charged with raising money for missionary work in the U.S. and overseas. In 1978 members of the Church contributed \$19,896,699 for such programs.

The Stewardship Council also provides educational and interpretative materials and practices for local churches to use to develop individual members' understanding of how to put their Christian faith into practice through personal action and giving.

"We need to help church members feel that they share in the mission of the church," Mr. Otto says of the role of the Stewardship Council. "Mission must be made significant in diverse ways, through personal presence, through electronic media, as well as through gifts of money."

Mr. Otto was elected by the 38 member board of directors of the Stewardship Council after a year's search for a new executive. On June 1, Mr. Otto will take the

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# DON'T Do It Alone: COOPERATE

One of the distinctive features of the United Church of Christ over the years has been its promotion of and involvement in the ecumenical church movement. Not simply a verbal agreement, this belief in a "united and uniting" body of Christian believers is most evident in the day to day life of our local churches. For example, consider the cooperative ministries of two of our Southeast Conference churches.

Knoxville, TN, Church of the Savior, UCC cooperates ecumenically in an organization called FISH. Once a month, Church of the Savior, is responsible for "manning the phone" and responding to needy people throughout the city. During their 12 days of service in 1978, Church of the Savior members delivered food to 279 persons, helped 17 with financial needs, provided 26 persons with clothing or furniture, assisted 11 people in finding housing, and provided transportation for 27 persons — all of this just one day a month! Multiplied by the comparable efforts of 30 or so other churches who also help one day per month, one can begin to see a degree of need the response to which would overwhelm the resources of any one congregation.

Or consider the Greater Birmingham Ministries of which Pilgrim UCC is a member. By working together, the churches which compose GBM can offer the following diversified services: emergency help with food, clothing, medicine and counselling, Meals on Wheels operating from five sites and serving 200 persons a day, disaster relief, and services for systematic change operating in the areas of hunger, Federal housing, capital punishment, prison reform and criminal justice.

When the plusses and minusses are added, one thing becomes clear: don't do it alone — cooperate! By pooling the resources of all of the churches in a community, not only can you do more, but you can do it better, more efficiently and without exhausting the resources of time and energy of your members. But most importantly, by cooperating we can all begin to serve the multitude of persons to whom Jesus continually calls us.



Rev. Ralph Quellhorst (top) and Rev. Joyce Myers (bottom) from the Office for Church Life and Leadership.



## Sign Of The Cross

Central Congregational Church, UCC, in Atlanta, GA, began the Lenten season with a service of worship on Ash Wednesday, February 28, 1979. Pastor, W.T. Scott spoke and, at the conclusion, had each member of the congregation mark with his or her finger on the forehead of the persons sitting next to them the sign of the cross. Reminding us that Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground, the marker of the sign of the cross was to say, "You are dust and unto dust you shall return," and the person receiving the sign of the cross

responded, "I remember the sign of the cross was placed on my forehead."

Not only are we mortal, but through the cross of Jesus Christ and His resurrection we can find life.

## CRJ Aids Zimbabwe Refugees

Dr. Charles E. Cobb, Executive Director of the United Church of Christ commission for Racial Justice presented a check for \$9,657 to Mr. John Kelly, Regional Representative of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, for the purchasing of badly needed supplies for Zimbabwean refugees. This represented the proceeds from "The Evening in Solidarity with Zimbabwe and the Wilmington 10," held in November. Dr. Cobb promised more yet to come. A similar "Evening in Solidarity . . ." will be held in Philadelphia later this month, of which the proceeds will also be given to Zimbabwean refugees.

Dr. Cobb, also a member of the Working Committee of the Churches' Human Rights Program for the Implementation of the Helsinki Final Act of the World Council of Churches said, "I have traveled throughout the African Continent, and personally witnessed the plight of the refugees, especially the children." He urged his fellow churchmen to follow suit and help in this struggle for human survival.

## Stewardship Cont'd

place of the Rev. Dr. Sheldon E. Mackey who has held the position since the United Church of Christ was formed in 1957 by the union of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Born in Cicero, IL, in 1932, Mr. Otto has been conference minister of the United Church of Christ Rocky Mountain Conference since 1974. Mr. Otto is married to the former Janice Nicholson. The couple have two sons and a daughter.

## Convocation Cont'd-

for couples and \$21.00 for singles and will include six meals. For further information, write to Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, P.O. Box 773, Phenix City, AL 36867.

Because a meeting place could not be secured, the Convocation of "Pastors of Small Churches," slated for April 27-29, has been cancelled.

## Oghs And The 200-Pound Rabbit

In Belize, a small independent nation located on the Caribbean between Mexico and Guatemala, our partnership with fellow Christians comes to focus in two projects: the work of the Christian Social Council in Belize City, directed by Miss Sadie Vernon and Mr. Harry Jeffrey, and the Heifer Project in Belmopan, directed by John Dieterly.

Funds from the One Great Hour of Sharing all-church offering are being used in support of both programs.

Through Church World Service, funds were directed for the purchase of an older residence to house the offices and programs of the Christian Social Council. Its work is supported locally by Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, Methodists, Nazarenes, and by the Salvation Army — really quite a unique assemblage. Working closely with the Belize government, the Council provides clothing for needy families and offers family-planning information and classes in English, sewing and “home arts.”

Through Heifer Project International, John Dieterly and his wife, Miriam, associate missionaries of our United Church Board for World Ministries, are developing a demonstration farm and 4-H Center and are growing elephant grass, sugar cane, and comfrey and other greens.

Oh, yes, the 200-pound rabbit! Heifer Project has been working to develop a breed of rabbits for distribution to local 4-H clubs in Belize. The rabbits need to be fast-growing and able to produce up to 5-8 rabbits per litter — a total of about 200 pounds of meat per year. What's really needed is a good 200-pound rabbit!

## Belvidere Pastor Resigns

Rev. Collie Seymour submitted his resignation as pastor on March 11, to become effective after May 27. In order to be nearer to his married children in North Carolina, Rev. Seymour has accepted the pastorate of the Pleasant Grove - Ingram Parish in Halifax County, Virginia.

Rev. Seymour has served the Belvidere Church for four-and-a-half years. He is also currently serving as the Moderator of the Alabama-Tennessee Association.

## Hunger Consultation Held

From Hawaii to Maine, from Minnesota to Florida, 110 UCC hunger actors gathered in Washington in mid-February to learn, share and plan for future hunger action. Rev. Edward Brown, Rev. Don Scovill and Rev. John Lackey attended from the Southeast Conference.

Presentations were heard, workshops attended and congressional and administration offices contacted. What resulted?

There were no resolutions or recommendations passed. No plan of action was developed. What then was the value of this first national UCC Hunger Consultation?

There were at least three “results” that came out of the Consultation that make the event of value.

The first is messages. On the final morning the participants stated, sometimes simply, sometimes with passion, the messages and headlines that they felt our church should hear and feel. There were specific requests: materials on “How to Mobilize;” “Hunger Action Fund illustrations needed.” Strategies were suggested. “Use overseas people;” “use Conference meeting to expose people;” “keep hunger concern in total program.”

Insights were shared: “Political will is the key;” “move from ethics of charity to ethics of justice.” Areas of needed action were highlighted: “full employment,” “Women and hunger.”

The issue/concern of lifestyle was stressed: “Need support community for lifestyle change;” “church structures have to simplify their lifestyle.”

A second resulting value of the Consultation was the contacts that were made, the networks that were formed. Hunger activists are not alone but a part of concerned Christians across our land.

Finally, at the Consultation it became clear that there was a challenge being laid before us and to which the participants responded with commitment. There are 770 million persons living in absolute poverty and at least a billion who are affected by malnutrition. These already staggering numbers will increase unless changes, basic changes are made and very soon. To achieve these changes we must learn and educate, we must, as individuals, a church and a nation, develop a political and economic will committee to eradicating hunger. We must examine old patterns of acting, be it our lifestyle, our patterns of giving or our ideas of what is helpful.

Rev. Neill Richards

## The Church And The New South

The role of the church regarding the economy, society and environment of a new South will bring the membership and leadership of Georgia churches to Atlanta, GA, on March 24, to begin a series of conferences on the future of the church.

Under the theme, “A New Church, A New South,” the conference will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 24, April 21, and May 19 in the Urban Life Center at Georgia State University. The first conference will center on “The Economy.”

Participants will study and assess changes now occurring and expected in Georgia and the new South during the next decades and beyond. Leadership for the conferences has been assembled from across the city, state and southeast and includes over a dozen prominent figures in the community, education, religion and government. Specific areas of focus are demographic, economic, social, spiritual, environmental, technological, commercial and governmental changes.

“The conference will seek to develop ways in which the church can take an active and determining role in shaping a future society,” explains the Rev. Jackson P. Brady, coordinator of the Georgia Interchurch Association.

“Growth and change in the South in the next several decades will carry the threat of de-humanizing influences, so we will be working to promote conditions which are conducive to human well-being,” he adds.

The conferences are sponsored by the Georgia Interchurch Association, the state ecumenical agency, in cooperation with the Department of Urban Community Services of Georgia State University.

The registration fee is \$16 for all three conferences or \$7 per day. Interested persons should mail a check for the proper amount along with their name, address and denomination to the Division of Public Services, Registration Office, Georgia State University, University Plaza, Atlanta, GA 30303.

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## Riggs Claim Missionary Service Record

The all-time family record for sustained missionary service belongs to UCC minister Dr. and Mrs. Riggs with some 2,336 years of missionary service! Sound unbelievable? Perhaps, but it's true. The first pair of missionaries in Dr. Rigg's family sailed for Constantinople in 1832. They served a total of 69 years. Their children (three in number) and their children's children (eleven in number) were all missionaries — most of them in Turkey, but some in China and Africa. Their years of service added up to 849. Dr. Riggs, a fourth generation missionary, added 32 years to the tally.

On Mrs. Rigg's side, the first of her missionary ancestors went in 1827 to Hawaii and then to Japan as missionaries. From that beginning, 32 family members worked as missionaries in Okinawa, Hawaii, Micronesia, Japan and China totaling 756 years of service, including the work of Mrs. Riggs.

But that's not all. In 1978 the Rigg's daughter, Martha, a fifth generation missionary became a UCBWM volunteer to do community development work among the tribal peoples of South India's hills.

Some 2,336 years of service, each year of which has been made possible through contributions to Our Christian World Mission. Help our missionary workers — support your church's OCWM this year.

## A Prayer To Remember

Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the noted Russian writer now living in the United States, has written the following prayer, the text of which has been translated from a Danish magazine. It is a prayer to remember:

"How easy it is for me to live with You, Lord; how easy to believe in You whenever I am doubtful or when my understanding does not reach far enough, when the smartest people don't see any farther than the evening that is near and do not know what they shall do tomorrow. Then you send me a clear knowledge that You live and care for me and that not all roads to goodness will be closed. Grant me Your grace. And that which I do not get done means that You have planned it for others to do."

(Chattanooga Pilgrim UCC Newsletter)



Celebrating the legacy of the  
Evangelical Synod of North America

## Our Evangelical Legacy

Fascinating historical information is interwoven with a look at the future in *Festival of the Church*, a book of articles celebrating the legacy of the Evangelical Synod of North America, one of the forerunners of the United Church of Christ.

Featured are lectures given at the centennial of the formation of the Evangelical Synod of North America, celebrated in 1977 at historic St. Paul's Church, Chicago. Frederick Trost, pastor of St. Paul's, introduces the book. Writers include Walter Brueggemann, Gabriel Fackre, Barbara Brown Zikmund, Arthur Gray, Avery Post, Robert Fauth, Rudolf Schade, and Lowell Zuck.

*Festival of the Church* is an important addition to personal and church libraries. These addresses give a great sense of history and identity and will be of interest to persons from all backgrounds who now make up our richly diverse church.

Produced by the Office for Church Life and Leadership, *Festival of the Church* is available at \$5 from Church Leadership Resources, PO Box 179, St. Louis, Missouri 63166.

## Good Advice

Rev. John Wesley, earthly founder of the Methodist Church, had a devoted mother, Susannah. She advised her son: "Take this rule: Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, or takes the relish off spiritual things; in short, whatever increases the strength and authority of your body over your mind and spirit, that thing is sin to you, however innocent it may be itself."

Langdale, AL, UCC Newsletter

## UCC Supports Heifer Project International

Heifer Project International has been one of the channels through which the United Church of Christ has shown its concern for the oppressed, the poor and the down-trodden long before those were popular sociological or theological terms. HPI provides a platform from which assistance to animal centered agricultural projects can be launched in ecumenical cooperation. The continued support of the United Church of Christ is needed as Heifer Project steps into the last year of this decade with its most ambitious program ever. Agricultural programming is expected to reach nearly three million dollars in 1979.

That is a staggering figure when taken by itself. However it becomes much more manageable when we think in terms of the individual animals and specific projects. Each project has its special budget which reflects the local situation in whatever corner of the world it is located. On an average the cattle cost about \$500 to \$600 each. Pigs, goats, and sheep can be provided for about \$100 to \$125 each. Twenty-five dollars will provide a pair of rabbits or a hive of bees, and day-old chicks cost about 50c each.

These and other animals are the basics out of which Heifer Project International develops its projects in response to the requests of local organizations. Because of special relationships to and interest in the following projects, the United Church of Christ has committed itself to them through the Service Division of the United Church Board for World Ministries. If you would like more information about them or to take an active part in any of them, please write to Gustav H. Kuether, UCBWM, P.O. Box 179, St. Louis, MO 63166.

## New Filmstrip Available

1979 has been designated as International Mission Study Year. The filmstrip, *Building Bridges*, gives a personal report by Margaret Blemker, Regional Secretary for the Middle East, UCBMW, on our work in three outstanding schools in Turkey. A copy is now available through the Conference Office. Please contact the office well in advance of your anticipated date of use so we can share this resource with your church members.

# Circular Sets Priorities

Circular Congregational Church, UCC in Charleston, S.C. has adopted some fourteen goals, the first six of which will be programmed during the coming year.

In addition to emphasizing stewardship and innovation in worship, the top six goals included the following projects:

1. Design and catalyze on an ecumenical basis a hospice — a health care facility for persons with chronic or terminal illness that provides spiritual as well as physical care.

2. Sponsor a family education center — an organization which will promote harmonious living and community through educational and counseling techniques.

3. Support and encourage alternative lifestyles — ways in which we can live a simpler, less consumer-oriented life.

4. Work with the problem of alcoholics who gather together in the church's yard — ministry through rehabilitation.

It sounds like the members of Circular Church are going to be busy for quite some time! Isn't it amazing how much one church can do when it really sets its mind to it! Have your church consider the ministries it can offer in your community.

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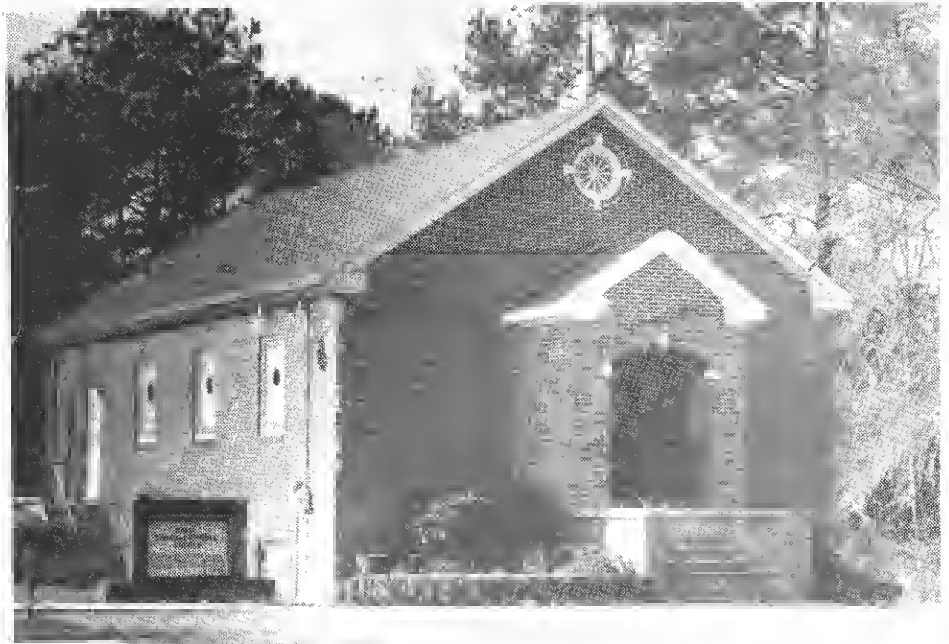
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First Congregational Church, Andalusia, Al

## AROUND THE CONFERENCE First Church, Andalusia, Al.

### First Church, Andalusia, Al

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Tennessee, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ "may all be one."

Representing our southern Alabama churches is First Congregational Church in Andalusia, Al. Organized in 1943 with 26 charter members, the church was incorporated in that same year under the name of "First Congregational Christian Church." Late in 1943 land was purchased on the site of the church's present location on Dunson Street.

Following WWII, plans were made for construction of a church building. Begun in 1948, the church's present building was completed in 1950.

In its 36 year history, First Church has been served by some 14 ministers. Rev. Woody Clark, who has served since 1974, is the church's present pastor.

In addition to a church school program that boasts 55 participants, the church offers Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services. The church also is served by a very active Men's Fellowship.

In addition to its mission work for Elon Home for Children, First Church is presently in the midst of a church growth program, utilizing teams of church members for visitation.

With some 60 members, First Church, Andalusia, is looking forward to the future.

## Church Development Surveyed

Church growth and development is a topic of discussion at all levels of the church. Plans have been developed by many local churches to both increase their membership's commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In some New Hampshire churches, this means a planned visitation on prospective new members by the laity, sponsors for new members, classes around the meaning of our faith, faith retreats for church leaders, and various ways of surveying the community to identify new people.

In some regions of our country, church development takes the form of beginning new churches. Five years ago in 1973, the United Church of Christ started three new churches, but in 1979 the denomination expects to start a minimum of 25 new congregations. About half of these new churches will be in the "Sun Belt Area" in the south where the Conferences have embarked on a new church development strategy with the Board for Homeland Ministries.

As we rejoice in our church development, it is also a joy to us to realize that as members of the UCC, we are also part of an ambitious five-year National plan of church development that looks to a minimum of 25 new churches each year.

— Robert Fiske, "United Church News,"

## Christian Education News

The Southeast Conference has received letters from the UCBHM Division of Publication and the company responsible for shipping the Shared Approaches Resources, apologizing for the inexcusable delay in the shipping of the Winter Quarter materials. Their expressed concern matches that of the Conference Staff and local church teachers and leaders. Both sources assure us of a greatly improved performance. In future all orders received by the published cut-off dates will be delivered four weeks in advance of the use-date.

The Christian Education: Shared Approaches Consultants met in Atlanta on an Evaluation and Planning Session, Dec. 15-16. Those who participated were: Dr. Andes, Warren Blankenhorn, Martha Lauderdale, Dorothy DeVillars, Lena Dollar, Laura Long and Juanita Velasco. In keeping with our proposed schedule the Consultants have designated 1979 as the year for the local church consultation phase of the CE:SA Program. Therefore, if your church has a need for assistance in planning, resource selection or teacher training, please call or write the SE Conference Office and arrangements will be made to provide you with that assistance.

First Congregational Church in Atlanta has been participating in the Joint Education Development Evaluation of the Living the Word Resources through our Board for Homeland Ministries and the Southeast Conference. We appreciate this opportunity to participate in the evaluation and the time and effort given by the church school teachers, superintendent and pastor of First Church.

## Ala-Tenn Mini-camp Slated

The Alabama-Tennessee Association will sponsor a "Mini-Camp," to be held May 4-6 at Camp Kiwanis, Apison, TN. Invited are all youth grades 7-12. Cost for the weekend camp will be \$19.50 per person.

Program leadership will be provided by youth and Youth Core members. For further information, write to Rev. Stephen Gray, 700 Bresslyn Road, Nashville, TN.

# NEWS & NOTES

The Sponsoring Committee and the Search Committee for the new church start in Cobb County, GA, met on March 12. Some 19 persons were present to review procedures with Robert Bert from the Board of Homeland Ministries. Rev. Don Nelson has served as the interim pastor of the new church start.

Uplands Retirement Center, Pleasant Hill, TN, has acquired a mini-bus to improve transportation for the elderly. The bus is equipped with a hydraulic lift for wheelchairs and will seat 14 people.

Rev. Lelan D. McReynolds, pastor of First Evangelical & Reformed Church, Nashville, TN, will attend the Annual Meeting of the Annuity Fund for Ministers on April 26, 1979 at Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, Newark International Airport, Newark, N.J.

The theme for the Lenten Series at First Congregational Church, Atlanta is "Wonder." In the Ash Wednesday service, Dr. Homer C. McEwen, pastor, spoke on the wonder of the child in the midst of life.

Church of the Savior, Knoxville, TN, celebrated Ash Wednesday in a unique way. Under the leadership of an art history graduate, the congregation was shown some of the famous "heads of Christ", along with exploring the history of these paintings and their meaning for our present day celebration of Lent.

Some 115 women and men met at Lanett, AL, UCC for the Spring Conference of the Lay Life and Work groups in the East Alabama Association. A second workshop will be held at the Lanett Church on April 30.

Rev. Talmage Hartman, the first minister of Brookmead UCC in Nashville, and his wife Ruby celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, March 4. The Hartmans now reside in Wisconsin.

George and Joyce Percival have taken a staff assignment at Uplands Retirement Center, Pleasant Hill, TN, beginning April 1. The Percivals have been longstanding members of Central Church in Atlanta.

Pilgrim UCC, Chattanooga, TN, recently began a once-a-week "Mother's Day Out" program at the church. This program enables mothers of small children to have a few hours to themselves by leaving their children under supervised care at the church.

Rehearsals recently got underway at Central Church, Atlanta, GA, for a musical drama entitled, "Celebrate Life" which depicts the life of Christ in word and song.

On March 11 the three Nashville UCC churches exchanged ministers for morning worship. Held twice during the year, the second "pulpit exchange" will be held later this spring.

The efficiency apartments in Heritage Village, part of Uplands Retirement Center, Pleasant Hill, TN, were finally ready for occupancy at the end of January. There are some 20 units in Heritage Village, all of which have been filled.

## Music Theme For Pop-in

"Worship in Music" was the theme of a Pop-In held March 23-25 at Belvidere, TN, UCC and sponsored by the Alabama-Tennessee Association. The youth and adults who attended could hardly have asked for a prettier setting. The weather was beautiful and the participants were refreshed by the country background with its blue sky, green fields, and pretty flowers.

On Saturday sessions were led by Joe Bias and Rick Cassity of Nashville. These two talented and versatile musicians played and sang, told amusing anecdotes and shared some of their own religious viewpoints. Joe, who is a skilled and patient teacher, taught everyone a great song, which was successfully performed by the youth, under the direction of Marianne Dodd, at the Worship Service on Sunday morning.

With some 35 people in attendance, the Pop-In was greatly enjoyed and ended on Sunday with a picnic in the park.

Roxanne George